

June 2003

The Pinery

A Publication of the Portage County Historical Society

President's Report

HERITAGE PARK

The society has had a quiet winter period. The weather and funding shortages have kept us from making a large amount of progress on the site. However, the museum techniques class at the university, under Mr. Ed. Marks, has again put up a display in the church/museum building. This year the display involves cameos of aspects of the 1920's and 1930's. This was done in order to fit into the June 14th Yellowstone Trail event at the park.

The Yellowstone Trail event on June 14th has been publicized all over the state by the local tourism bureau and we hope to have a great many visitors. The Stevens Point/Plover areas were, 70 to 80 years ago on the trail that led to Yellowstone Park. The Yellowstone Hotel (located near where the Pineries Bank is now) was built to accommodate tourists on their way to the park. In the 1920's the area just west of the hotel was a campground for people going west. The time for this year's event is from Noon to 5:00 (Saturday). Old cars, period costumes, root beer floats and exhibits will be at the park. The public is invited to the event. Come and enjoy a step back into the early parts of the Twentieth Century.

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The Plover Portage Rendezvous and Threads of History is also on track for July 19 and 20. We hope to have about 20 campers in period costumes (1830's) and a number of exhibitors demonstrating a variety of crafts and occupations from that period. The society will also have music for most of the two-day period. Pie and ice cream along with buffalo burgers will be on sale. Admission to this event will be \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 for a family. Please come and enjoy the 1830's.

On the down side, the caboose recently moved onto the Heritage Park site suffered some vandalism at the hands of two boys. The boys used slingshots to try to shoot out the remaining windows of the caboose. The boys were caught and restitution will be made.

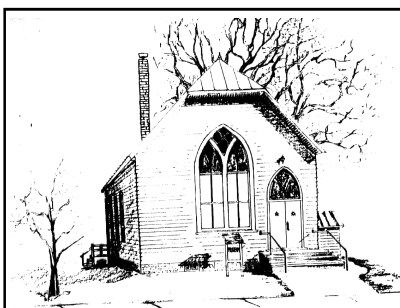
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

The society would like to express our deep thanks to Beverly West for her efforts to raise funds for the Engford House project. Over the past two years Ms. West has been able to raise \$5,000 for the rehabilitation of the interior of the Engford House. She was able to raise the funds through the selling of American Flag sets and flag lapel pins that she had designed. Ms. West has a personal connection to the house in that she had attended choir practices at the Engfords. The raising of the funds for the house has special meaning for her. The society is honored to receive this gift from the D.A.R.

FOUNDATION

The society board, as per the foundation bylaws, has elected a new board for the foundation. The new board includes, Jeanne Regnier, Tim Siebert, Karen Zinda, Ramon Stade and Wayne McCaffery. The key issue facing the board and the society is whether

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'We Believe'

**The 2003—04 Season's display at the
Synagogue/Museum, 1475 Water St.**

Religion played a big part of the early development of Portage County. Barely had early settlers built their homes, cleared land and planted crops before they began establishing churches. These churches were a little bit of the home country for recent immigrants.

**June 14 thru Aug. 31
Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 PM**

or not to move the funds of the foundation from where it currently is invested to the Community Foundation of Portage County. The foundation board is in the process of trying to ascertain the wisdom of moving the funds or leaving them as is.

ALUMINIUM CANS

The aluminum cans are of great help to us in keeping this publication moving ahead and paying for some other smaller items that the society needs. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to this. Please keep them coming. You can drop them off on the south side of the Water St. Museum or by the Church museum in Plover.

FUND DRIVE

As many of you know the society has four outstanding, non-interest private loans. We have been trying to raise the, roughly, \$23,000 to pay off these loans. Thanks to many of you for your donations. As a result of these donations the society has been able to pay down our debts to about \$13,000. The debts do not have payment date but they must be paid down as soon as possible. Following is a list of those who have generously given to this attempt to pay down these loans. This is the order that the funds were received.

Tom Eagon, Tom McCaig, William Cable, John Messing, Charles Larson, Burdette Eagon, Lawrence Eagleburger, Allen Barrows, John Bernd, Irene Tuthill, Mr. and Mrs. Keats, Elizabeth Gilkay, Maxine Burress, Etta Louise Owen, Charles Larson, Wayne McGowen, Beatrice Boston, Mark Ilten, Mike Warzinik, Art & Barb Herman, Sam Skibicki, Mary Swanson, Bernnie Toser, Mary Thurmaier, Elizabeth Davidson, Jessie Wievel, Milo Harpstead and William Paul.

Again, thanks to all of you for your generosity.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Stevens Point, WI

The Stevens Point congregation began when two local people in the early 1900's learned that they shared a common interest in the study of Christian Science. They met to read the weekly lesson sermon. As others joined them, the group began meeting in private homes for regular Sunday services in 1914

The first meeting was on Sunday, December 6, 1914 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert K. McDonald, S. River Drive. The group met every Sunday after that at various homes until meeting every week at the home of Mr. and Ms. Joseph Whittaker, 618 Main Street (now 41 Park Ridge Drive) until 1917. Then the group held services at the McDonald office building over Church's Plumbing and Heating shop, 311 Clark Street

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(now 925 Clark Street).

In December 1925, the members purchased the former German Methodist Church on the corner of East Avenue and Center Street, and remodeled it in 1928.

In January 1926, the group was accepted as a society by The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts and became known as Christian Science Society, Stevens Point. The church has no ordained pastor. Two readers, who are elected by the congregation, conduct the services. The Pastor is the Holy Bible and the church's textbook, *Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures* by Mary Baker Eddy. Wednesday evening meetings were added, where, after inspirational readings, the congregation is invited to give thanks and to share testimonies of healing. Sunday

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Portage County Historical Society
Presents the 6th Annual

Plover Portage Rendezvous & Threads of History

Threads of History



Vendors & Demonstrators:
Quilters Lace Makers
Spinners Basket Makers
Tatters Soap Makers
Weavers Butter Maker

Call Andrea Mielke
715-344-4104
andrea@mielkesfarm.com

Plover Portage Rendezvous



Re-enactment of:
Wisconsin Frontier Life 1760-1830
Traders
Period Crafts
Blacksmiths

Call Bethann Laars
715-677-3104
hrtwks@wi-net.com

July 19-20, 2003

Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Sunday 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Admission: Adults \$2.00 Children \$1.00 Family \$5.00

Entertainment Daily

Refreshments Available



Buffalo Burger Sale

hosted by
Phil & Ione Hausler's
Low Land Bison Ranch

Sat: 11:00 - 4:00
Sun: 11:00 - 3:00

Heritage Park Plover Wisconsin
Corner of Willow Dr. & Washington Ave.



This year's Rendezvous will feature the return of the Pie and Ice Cream Social. Also, the Lowland Bison Ranch owned by Phil and Ione Hausler will again be serving buffalo burgers and will take orders for additions cuts of bison meat.

The buckskinners will be demonstrating life in the 1830's, competing in knife and tomahawk throws and other games of the fur trade era. Our thanks to Bethann Laars for being our booshway (camp leader).

The Threads of History portion of the Rendezvous promises to be enlarged also. Andrea Mielke has assembled a growing groups of ladies and men that specialize in the crafts of the early 1800's. They will be in costume also.

This Event Hosted by: Portage County Historical Society www.pchswi.org



The Yellowstone Trail

Harken back to the great age of motoring, when the Yellowstone Trail was established in South Dakota and stretched from “Plymouth Rock to Puget Sound.” Between 1915, when the Yellowstone Trail Association extended the Trail to Chicago, and the 1930’s, the Yellowstone Trail served Wisconsin from Kenosha to Hudson. Explore the Wisconsin route to rediscover an age when roads had names. Along the way, you’ll find vestiges of the old road and friendly hospitality that has always been a part of Wisconsin.

June 14, 2003
12:00 - 4:00
Heritage Park

Taken from various travel guides

STEVENS POINT

Prosperous and happy community. Miles of fine paving. Hotel Whiting an exceptionally fine hotel. Ford Garage at Ellis & Strongs Ayes. Wis. River Mill (print paper) & Plover Paper Co. (bonds and writing stock.). Yellowstone Camp about 1 mile east of town on Trail. Level and in a grove 50 cents. Cabins \$1.50 to \$2.50 each. 40 acres. 200 cars. Toilets.

- Guest speakers
- See Old Cars
- Have a buffalo burger
- Tour the Park

AMHERST

www.yellowstonetrailwi.com

Membership Application/Renewal

The Society needs your support! Your renewal or new membership is necessary for the Portage County Historical Society to continue the preservation of our past.

Mail To:
 Portage County Historical Society
 P.O. Box 672
 Stevens Point, WI 54481

Renewal _____ New _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____



Annual	\$15
Business	\$25
Contributing	\$50
Life	\$100

School for children and young people up to the age of 20 was initiated at this time, also.

In 1938, the Society qualified as a branch church and became known as First Church of Christ, Scientist, Stevens Point. In 1957, a lot was purchased at the north-east corner of Main Street and Minnesota Avenue for erection of a new church edifice. Building of the church was started in 1958. The first service was held on January 4, 1959. The church was dedicated, being free of debt, on April 30, 1960 and continues to hold services at that location.

A Christian Science Reading Room has been maintained by the church since 1938 in various locations. In 1975, the Reading Room was moved to a downtown location from the church. This move allowed ready access for the public for prayer and study during the week. Available for loan or purchase are the Bible, study aids and the writings of the founder of Christian Science, Mary Baker Eddy, magazines dealing with contemporary issues and the Christian Science Monitor, an international newspaper. This move provided additional room for Sunday School classes at the church and, for the first time, a children's room during Sunday Services.

During the period of the late 1960's and early 1980's, church members assisted with many activities of the UWSP Christian Science organization.

From 1984 to 1988, the Reading Room was relocated at the church because of the downtown renovation. In 1988, the congregation voted to return to the downtown area at 1336 Strongs Ave, where it remained until 1997. At that time, the Reading Room was returned to the church and is now open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from noon until three p.m. for the public.

The church holds a Sunday service and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m. and a Wednesday service at 7:45 p.m. It's primary outreach to the community, in addition to the services and the Reading Room, includes weekly Bible Lessons, broadcast three times a week over Channel 3, Community Access TV, and a yearly lecture. The members also participate in workshops, such as The Wellness Conference, and provide guest speakers at UWSP religion classes.



Taken from Portage County Echo's

Story by: Florence Pipe, age - 89

Recorder: Tim Klepps

The Stagecoach

Mrs. Florence Pipe and her husband Raymond Pipe, who died just seven years ago, ran a stagecoach stop along with Raymond's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Pipe. The stagecoach stop was in Sheridan, Wisconsin, which is located between Amherst and Waupaca, Wisconsin, five miles from Amherst and seven miles from Waupaca. Flor-

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ence's job was to fix meals for guests. She was nineteen at the time in 1917, getting married only a few months before. Florence could remember Raymond's job, taking care of the horses when they came in. He would water them, check hooves and brush them.

In 1919 Florence had turned 21 and Raymond 23. Raymond's father died of a heart attack and his mother turned the stagecoach stop over to Raymond and Florence. Raymond's mother moved down the road in a little house. Florence Pipe stated, "This was the turning point of my life". It was at this time that she started to teach school across the street, at the Pipe school. Florence can remember hiring a couple of Indians, who lived in a little tribe in the woods behind their barn, to work at the stagecoach stop. Florence said, "the Indians were good workers, but they liked to steal things". Raymond and Florence ran a 220-acre dairy farm after they shut down the stagecoach stop in 1936. Florence was still teaching at the age of 38, while she was raising her family. "Raymond and I had four children, three girls and one boy".

After teaching and having reached the age of 60, they also closed down the farm in 1962. "The kids were long on their own and Raymond and I were living fine." Florence said that "looking at the pictures of the family, stagecoach and farm brought back memories". In 1980 Raymond died of a heart attack. Florence said "the nine bedroom house suited me just fine". At the age of 89 she still lives there by herself, healthy and as happy as can be. She lives there just during the summer months.

(Florence was born on May 21, 1898)

A Time of Change – the 1920's & 30's



Heritage Park Museum

Located between Madison Ave. and Washington Ave., on the south side of the railroad tracks in Plover, Wi.

Big changes happened during these years:

The changing kitchen
Learn about Wisconsin Radio of the Air
Change in clothing styles
The advances in sewing machines
New surveying equipment

June 14 thru Aug. 31
Saturday & Sunday
1:00 - 5:00 PM



The Society holds a monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:30 PM and are held in the basement of the Synagogue Museum, 1475 Water St., Stevens Point, WI 54481, Phone # (715) 344-4423. All Members and the general public are welcome.

To contact the Society write to the address below or call:

Tim Siebert (715) 344-7607

or

The Society at (715) 344-4423 or email to pchs_54481@yahoo.com

See our web site at www.pchswi.org

For contributing articles or comments on the Newsletter:
PCHS Newsletter, 1418 Wisconsin St., Stevens Point, WI 54481

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Stevens Point, WI 54481

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